

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, in view of Bruno, to add a coating solution to a slurry of barium titanate-based particles produced hydrothermally by Egami.

As discussed in the telephone interview, Applicants respectfully disagree that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add a coating solution, as taught by Bruno, to a slurry of barium titanate-based particles produced in the Egami hydrothermal process in order to coat the particles. Bruno teaches adding a coating solution to a slurry of ceramic particles in deionized water, or mixtures of deionized water and water miscible organic solvents. (See Bruno, for example, Column 5, lines 54-65). A slurry of particles formed in a hydrothermal reaction includes ionic species, for example, which are residual from the reaction. Because Bruno adds coating solutions to slurries of particles in deionized water, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated, with the teaching of Bruno, to add a coating solution to a slurry that includes ions as in Egami. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine the references in the manner stated in the Office Action and the requirements of a prima facie case of obviousness are not met.

Moreover, even if Egami and Bruno were combined in the manner suggested in the Office Action, it is unclear that this asserted combination would teach or suggest the recitation in independent claim 1 of maintaining barium titanate-based particles in a wet environment after hydrothermally producing the particles and prior to forming a coating on surfaces of the particles.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over the proposed combination of Egami and Bruno. Dependent claims 2-4 and 9-10 depend from claim 1 and, thus, are also patentable over this combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Egami in view of Bruno as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. 4,764,493 (Lilley). Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the combination of Egami and Bruno as described above. Lilley does not overcome the lack of motivation of the Egami and Bruno combination with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 4-6 are patentable over the combination

of Egami in view of Bruno and further in view of Lilley for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Egami in view of Bruno as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. 5,833,361 (Funk). Claims 7-8 depend from claim 1. Funk does not overcome the lack of motivation of the Egami and Bruno combination with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 7-8 are patentable over the combination of Egami in view of Bruno and further in view of Funk for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection on this ground.

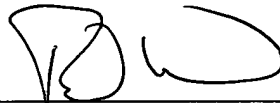
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted

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